

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 1-4. Favorable action is requested for new claims 5-6.

In the Official Action, the drawings were objected to because FIG. 1 contains Japanese characters. Corrected drawings with the Japanese characters removed are submitted herewith.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, on the grounds that claim 1 recites that "each tray being adapted to sort and hold". The Examiner's suggestion to remove the word "sort" from claim 1 has been adopted, thereby broadening the claim and overcoming the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is cordially urged.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,109,323 to *Baccini*. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baccini*. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baccini* in view of JP 07010277.

The present claim 1 recites a combination of features including, *inter alia*, a conveyor device for picking up a single ceramic green sheet from a drawn tray and conveying the single ceramic green sheet to the laminator. The support 16 of *Baccini* is not the drawn tray. *Baccini* does not disclose or suggest this feature. See col. 9, l. 43 - col. 10, l. 51.

Baccini teaches that the support 16 is taken out of the container 15 and lays on the first conveyor line 27, at col. 9, ll. 43-48, an engagement and laying means 26 is fitted on a movable carriage 12 in cooperation with withdrawal slider means 24 and engages the

support 16 together with the relative green-tape foil 11 positioned momentarily at the substantial centre of the withdrawal slider means 24 and lays the support 16 on the first conveyor line 27. Then the support 16, still separated from the container 15, is forwarded to the removal station 35 (col. 10, ll. 13-22), the first conveyor line 27 conveys every support 16 bearing its relative green-tape foil 11 to cooperate with a pre-alignment station 32, and the first conveyor line 27 takes the support 16 forwards to reach a removal station 35. Accordingly, *Baccini* merely teaches the engagement and laying means 26 takes the support 16 from the container 15 and lays it on the first conveyor line 27, that is, the support 16 is separated from the container 15, and *Baccini* does not disclose or suggest the conveyor device for picking up a single ceramic green sheet from a drawn tray.

In view of the differences between claim 1 and *Baccini*, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by and define patentably over *Baccini*. With respect to the rejection of claims 3 and 4, it is respectfully submitted that JP 07010277 cures none of the defects of *Baccini* and that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom define patentably over the combination of references.

With regard to new claim 5, as acknowledged in the Official Action, *Baccini* does not disclose that the trays in the racks have different types of green tape foil. New claim 5 defines the tray drawer device for drawing at least two trays with different types of ceramic green sheets from the rack according to a predetermined order as in the proposed claim that is attached.

New claim 6 recites that in each tray the ceramic green sheets are sorted according to the respective type thereof and the plurality of ceramic green sheets of the same type are

stored, and each of the trays include the plurality of ceramic green sheets of the same type. In other words, each tray has a plurality of ceramic green sheets of the same type, while *Baccini* discloses the containers 15 hold a plurality of plate-type supports 16, each of which bears a green-tape type foil 11 at col. 7, ll. 1-2. *Baccini* does not intend to have a plurality of green-tape foil 11 in the support 16 because the foil 11 is removed by air from underside of the support 16, if the support 16 has a plurality of the foil 11, the foil 11 could not be taken out properly from the support 16, at col. 10, ll. 39-43, air under pressure is blown upwards from below to assist removal of the green-tape foil 11 from the support 16 and, passing through the small through holes 55 in the support 16, lifts and distances the green-tape foils 11 from the support 16.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 1-6, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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~~【図面】~~

~~【図1】~~

FIG. 1

